

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-4, 13, 17-26 and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 5-12, 14-16, 25, 26 and 28-49 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-4, 13, 17-24 and 27 are rejected. The withdrawn claims, with the exception of claims 25-26, are canceled. Claims 25-26 depend from examined claim 17.

ELECTION/RESTRICTIONS:

The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's election of Species I (Figure 3). Applicant respectfully points out that the response to the election of species was filed on March 7, 2005, and not February 7, 2005, as listed in Section 1 of the Office Action.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claim 20 is objected to because the Examiner asserts that it improperly depends from claim 17. The Examiner asserts that claim 20 should be dependent upon claim 19 because claim 17 does not include a polarized beam splitter. Applicant adopts the Examiner's suggestion by amending claim 20 to depend from claim 19.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishihara et al. (U.S. Patent 6,535,256 [hereinafter "Ishihara"]).

An exemplary aspect of the present invention is to provide a light pipe having increased light efficiency and which separates light according to color while reducing light loss. Ishihara is applied for disclosing a light pipe 7 in Fig. 1.

Claim 1 describe, *inter alia*, that each of the first, second, and third dichroic prisms include reflective planes that reflect light and form exteriors of the first, second and third dichroic prisms. The reflective planes contribute to reducing loss in the light beams, as described on page 10, lines 13-16, of the present specification.

It appears that the Examiner is applying the mirror planes of Fig. 2 in Ishihara against both the claimed mirror planes (i.e., first-third mirror planes) and against the additional reflective planes described in the wherein clause of claim 1. To further distinguish the reflective planes, recited in the wherein clause, from the first-third mirror planes, Applicant amends claim 1 to describe that the first-third dichroic prisms include "additional" reflective planes "other than the first, second and third mirror planes."

Ishihara does not disclose each feature of amended claim 1 because Ishihara does not disclose at least the recited additional reflective planes. As noted in the specification, these additional reflective planes contribute to improving the efficiency of the light pipe and provide aspects not disclosed in the prior art. Accordingly, Ishihara does not disclose each feature of claim 1, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should similarly be withdrawn at least by virtue of this claim depending from claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 2 and 3

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara and further in view of Okuyama (U.S. Patent 6,406,149). Okuyama is applied for teaching first and second beam splitters 7a and 7b that include a $\frac{1}{2}$ wave plate 7c. This additional disclosure of Okuyama does not make up for the deficient teachings of Ishihara in regard to claim 1, such that the combination of Ishihara and Okuyama does not teach or suggest each feature recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 and 3 are patentable over the applied references at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

Claims 13, 17-24 and 27

Claims 13, 17-24 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara and further in view of Lambert (U.S. Patent 6,288,815).

Ishihara is again applied for teaching a light pipe including three dichroic prisms. The Examiner acknowledges that Ishihara does not disclose a scrolling unit which changes the paths of the separated beams, as recited in claims 13 and 17. Therefore, the Examiner applies Lambert for allegedly disclosing a scrolling unit as shown in Fig. 1.

Applicant amends independent claims 13 and 17 in a manner similar to that of claim 1. In particular, claims 13 and 17 further define that the first-third dichroic prisms include "additional" reflective planes "other than the first, second and third mirror planes." The rejection should be withdrawn because the application of Lambert does not make up for the deficient teachings of Ishihara in regard to at least the additional reflective planes, such that the combined

references do not teach or suggest each feature recited in claims 13 and 17. The rejection of dependent claims 18-24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should likewise be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims respectively depending upon independent claims 13 and 17.

Claims 19 and 20

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara in view of Lambert and further in view of Okuyama.

The application of Ishihara, Lambert and Okuyama is similar to that presented in the previous rejections. Applicant submits that the combination of these references does not teach or suggest each feature recited in amended claim 17, such that the rejection of claims 19 and 20 should be withdrawn at least by virtue of claims 19-20 depending upon claim 17.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

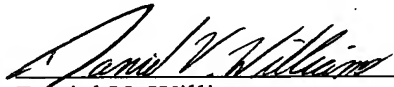
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